Drought in Karnataka

3743. SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of drought relief fund sought by Government of Karnataka;

(b) the sanctioned amount of CRF; and

(c) utilisation amount of CRF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka had sought assistance of Rs. 1562.85 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and allocation of 11.09 lakh MTs of foodgrains. In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 amounting to Rs. 61.66 crores, release of assistance of Rs. 207.65 crores from NCCF (after adjustment of CRF) and allocation of 6.65 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been made to the State.

Banning production of Khesari Dal

†3744. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States banned the production as well as consumption of "Khesari Dal" on the advice of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the names of such States and since when the said ban has been imposed;

(c) whether the facts about inherent toxic content in "Khesari Dal" has been established by some scientific studies; and

(d) if so, the details of the places where the documents containing the said studies are available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, there is no ban on the production/cultivation as well as consumption of Khesari Dal. However, there is ban on the sale and storage of Khesari Dal. All the States/UTs except the State of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal have issued notification for banning the sale of Khesari Dal in their States/UTs. under the provision of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. A Statement indicating the date of banning the sale of Khesari Dal by the States/UTs. is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) As per the study conducted in the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, Khesari Dal contains a neurotoxin, B-N-Oxalyl-Aminoalanine (BOAA) which causes paralysis of lower limbs.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.